

# Spud Wood

(Plan period – 2020 to 2025)



WOODLAND  
TRUST

# Management Plan Content Page

Introduction to the Woodland Trust Estate

Management of the Woodland Trust Estate

The Public Management Plan

Location and Access

## Introduction to the Woodland Trust Estate

The Woodland Trust owns and cares for well over 1,250 sites covering almost 30,000 hectares (ha) across the UK. This includes more than 4,000ha of ancient semi-natural woodland and almost 4,000ha of non-native plantations on ancient woodland sites and we have created over 5,000ha of new native woodland. We also manage other valuable habitats such as flower-rich grasslands, heaths, ponds/lakes and moorland.

Our Vision is:

“A UK rich in native woods and trees for people and wildlife.”

To realise all the environmental, social and economic benefits woods and trees bring to society, we:

- **Create Woodland** – championing the need to hugely increase the UK’s native woodland and trees.
- **Protect Woodland** – fighting to defend native woodland, especially irreplaceable ancient woodland and veteran trees; there should be no loss of ancient woodland
- **Restore Woodland** – ensuring the sensitive restoration of all damaged ancient woodland and the re-creation of native wooded landscapes.

# Management of the Woodland Trust Estate

All our sites have a management plan which is freely accessible via our website

[www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk)

Our woods are managed to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) and are certified with the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) under licence FSC-C009406 and through independent audit.

The following principles provide an overarching framework to guide the management of all our sites but we recognise that all woods are different and that their management also needs to reflect their local landscape, history and where appropriate support local projects and initiatives.

1. Our woods are managed to maintain their intrinsic key features of value and to reflect those of the surrounding landscape. We intervene in our woods when there is evidence that it is necessary to maintain or improve biodiversity, safety and to further the development of more resilient woods and landscapes.
2. We establish new native woodland for all the positive reasons set out in our Conservation Principles, preferably using natural regeneration but often by planting trees, particularly when there are opportunities for involving people.
3. We provide free public access to woods for quiet, informal recreation and our woods are managed to make them accessible, welcoming and safe. Where possible, we pro-actively engage with people to help them appreciate the value of woods and trees.
4. The long term vision for all our ancient woodland sites is to restore them to predominantly native species composition and semi-natural structure, a vision that equally applies to our secondary woods.
5. Existing semi-natural open ground and freshwater habitats are restored and maintained wherever their management can be sustained and new open ground habitats created where appropriate.
6. The natural and cultural heritage value of sites is taken into account in our management and in particular, our ancient trees are retained for as long as possible.
7. Land and woods can generate income both from the sustainable harvesting of wood products and the delivery of other services. We therefore consider the appropriateness of opportunities to generate income from our Estate to help support our aims.
8. We work with neighbours, local people, organisations and other stakeholders in developing the management of our woods. We recognise the benefits of local community woodland ownership and management. Where appropriate we encourage our woods to be used for local woodland, conservation, education and access initiatives.
9. We use and offer the Estate where appropriate, for the purpose of demonstration, evidence gathering and research associated with the conservation, recreational and sustainable management of woodlands. We maintain a network of sites for long-term monitoring and trials leading to reductions in plastics and pesticides.
10. Any activities we undertake are in line with our wider Conservation Principles, conform to sustainable forest management practices, are appropriate for the site and balanced with our primary objectives of enhancing the biodiversity and recreational value of our woods and the wider landscapes.

## The Public Management Plan

This public management plan describes the site and sets out the long term aims for our management and lists the Key Features which drive our management actions. The Key Features are specific to this site – their significance is outlined together with our long, 50 years and beyond, and our short, the next 5 years, term objectives for the management and enhancement of these features. The short term objectives are complemented by an outline Work Programme for the period of this management plan aimed at delivering our management aims.

Detailed compartment descriptions are listed in the appendices which include any major management constraints and designations. Any legally confidential or sensitive species information about this site is not included in this version of the plan.

There is a formal review of this plan every 5 years and we continually monitor our sites to assess the success of our management, therefore this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme.

Please either consult The Woodland Trust website

[www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk)

or contact the Woodland Trust

[operations@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:operations@woodlandtrust.org.uk)

to confirm details of the current management programme.

A short glossary of technical terms can be found at the end of the plan.

## Location and Access

Location maps and directions for how to find and access our woods, including this site, can be found by using the following link to the Woodland Trust web-site which contains information on accessible woodlands across the UK

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/find-woods/>

In Scotland access to our sites is in accordance with the Land Reform Act (of Scotland) 2003 and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

In England, Wales and NI, with the exception of designated Public Rights of Ways, all routes across our sites are permissive in nature and where we have specific access provision for horse riders and/or cyclists this will be noted in the management plan.

# The Management Plan

1. Site Details
2. Site Description
3. Long Term Policy
4. Key Features
  - 4.1 f1 Connecting People with woods & trees
  - 4.2 f2 Secondary Woodland
  - 4.3 F3 Open Ground Habitat
5. Work Programme

Appendix 1 : Compartment Descriptions

GLOSSARY

## 1. SITE DETAILS

### Spud Wood

Location:	Lymm	Grid	reference:	SJ701871	OS	1:50,000	Sheet	No.	109
Area:	17.22 hectares (42.55 acres)								
External Designations:	Community Forest								
Internal Designations:	Woods on Your Doorstep								

## 2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Spud Wood is a 17.22 hectare native broadleaved woodland located on the eastern edge of Oughtrington, approximately 1 mile to the east of Lymm in North Cheshire. The local landscape is predominantly rural with arable farming being the main land use. The Bridgewater Canal passes through the site on its way from Manchester to Runcorn. The wood is abutted by other broadleaved woodlands (Helsdale Wood, Newhey's Plantation and Lower Helsdale Wood which are privately owned) and arable farmland along the southern boundary, with local roads abutting the other boundaries: Oughtrington Lane to the west, Stage Lane to the north and Burford Lane to the east. The site is mainly flat with the ground rising gradually to the south and it lies between 25-35 metres above sea level. There are views to the north towards Winter Hill and east towards Manchester and the Pennines. The soils are sandy-loam to sandy-clay-loam with a sandstone substrate. The land was previously used for growing potatoes and was bought by the Woodland Trust from Cheshire County Council in 1997. It was planted in 1997/98 by local people as a community woodland as part to the Woodland Trust's millennium project "Woods On Your Doorstep" (WOYD) and the name Spud Wood was chosen by the local community

It is secondary woodland and approximately 26,000 native broadleaves were planted including oak, ash, Silver birch, rowan, field maple, hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn and holly. The site is approximately 70% woodland cover and 30% open ground habitat comprising some large meadows and wooded glades. Thinning and coppicing operations have been carried out since 2015 to improve its conservation and biodiversity value. This work has mainly been done by the Friends of Spud Wood, but a larger contractor thinning operation was carried out in early 2022 in sub-cpt 1c.

There is approximately 900 m of existing hedgerow, mainly along the boundaries and mature trees grow along the roadside boundaries and Helsdale Brook. The brook flows through the site from Helsdale Wood and into a culvert that passes under the canal by Burford Lane traffic lights. A small pond was created in 2000 in the south eastern part of the site and in Lower Helsdale Wood there are another two old ponds next to Spud Wood. A roadside drainage ditch runs parallel with Burford Lane from near the site entrance and flows into the same culvert which Helsdale Brook flows into under the canal. There is a concrete culvert for vehicle access and a wooden footbridge for pedestrian access across Helsdale Brook.

Public access is available to the wood with a network of approximately 2000 metres of permissive footpaths (unsurfaced) around the site and seven public access points. The public access points are from Stage Lane (including the car park), Oughtrington Lane, Burford Lane, the canal towpath and Helsdale Wood. There is a small car park with space for 9 cars located on Stage Lane with a surfaced footpath from the car park over the canal bridge to the main part of the wood. The wood is very popular and well used on a daily basis, particularly for dog walking. It is well connected with other recreational routes including the Bridgewater Canal which offers a flat walking route to Lymm and Dunham Massey and the long distance Trans Pennine Trail which is 0.5 mile to the north of the wood along Mill Lane.

The local community and volunteers are actively involved in working with the Woodland Trust to manage Spud Wood. The Friends of Spud Wood CIC ([www.spudwood.org.uk](http://www.spudwood.org.uk)) was set up in 2014 to run a wood allotment scheme where the members can take trees marked for felling in return for firewood. They also run a Woodland Trust volunteer group for the site who have regular task days doing woodland management including coppicing, making dead hedges, hedgelaying and grass cutting. The FOSW group designed and created an orienteering course for the site. The wood is often used by local scouts/ guide groups, the high school and for outdoor learning/ education

activities.

The key feature objectives for the site are:

Secondary Woodland.

Connecting People with woods and trees.

Open ground habitat.

### 3. LONG TERM POLICY

The long term intention for Spud Wood is to maintain a high forest of mixed native broadleaves with a mosaic of other habitats including meadows, glades, hedgerows and a pond. It will be managed as a landscape conservation feature and for public access.

Management of the site will aim to seek a balance between conservation and public enjoyment, guided by the Woodland Trust's woodland management, conservation and access policies. Management operations will primarily focus on work to maintain public access and safety and to enhance the conservation value of the site. Woodland management intervention may be required such as thinning and coppicing to diversify the age/ species structure and make the woodland more robust and resilient to threats such as climate change, tree diseases and pests. Natural regeneration will be encouraged to promote the long term sustainability of the secondary woodland. The meadow areas and glades will be maintained through annual mowing. The pond will be maintained as a conservation feature. The health and condition of the woodland will be assessed regularly to identify any threats from tree disease, pests, mammals, invasive species and human impacts, and where appropriate intervention will be taken if necessary.

Public access will be maintained at the current level with a network of approximately 2000 metres of permissive footpaths, seven public access points, signage and site infrastructure to make the site welcoming for visitors. The Trust's duty of care to visitors will be addressed through on-going tree safety and site risk assessment inspections. Community engagement in the management of the wood will be encouraged through working with the Friends of Spud Wood and offering volunteering opportunities for local people.



## 4. KEY FEATURES

### 4.1 f1 Connecting People with woods & trees

<b>Description</b>
<p>Spud Wood is about a mile to the east of the village of Lymm and lies adjacent to the Bridgewater Canal. The site's location and size makes it popular and it is very well used, both by local people and from further away to visit. It is very popular with dog walkers.</p> <p>There are seven public access points and approximately 2000 metres of unsurfaced grass footpaths across the site with a small car park on Stage Lane with space for 9 cars including a disabled parking bay.</p> <p>The footpaths are all permissive paths and there are no Public right of way on site. There is also access to the site from the Bridgewater Canal towpath near the car park.</p> <p>There is good local community involvement in the wood, through the Friends of Spud Wood and volunteers. The FOSW group was set up in 2014 to manage a wood allotment scheme at the wood, which they still run and they also help with a range of woodland management tasks on the site and other activities.</p>
<b>Significance</b>
<p>Increasing enjoyment of woodland is one of the Woodland Trust's key outcomes and Spud Wood provides people with the opportunity to access and enjoy woodland and nature close to where they live. The location of Spud Wood is close to Lymm and next to the Bridgewater Canal which makes it an attractive place for people to visit for a walk and it can be included as part of a walk in the wider countryside around the area, even to Dunham Massey at Altrincham.</p> <p>The wood was created as a community woodland as part of the Woods on Your Doorstep (WOYD) project to provide new public access to woodland for local communities. It is within the Mersey Community Forest which promotes public access to woods.</p>
<b>Opportunities &amp; Constraints</b>
<p>The popularity of the site means that it is subject to fairly intense use throughout the year and some of the footpaths can become very muddy in winter. The paths will need to be monitored to see if improvement work is required where erosion and damage to ground flora becomes an issue in heavily used/ muddy areas. The condition of paths in the winter is likely to limit visitor access in some parts of the wood.</p> <p>Car parking at the site is limited and a constraint. When the car park is full visitors park along the side of Stage Lane, outside the wood which causes issues for neighbours and road users travelling along the lane. Cars parked on the lane restrict access for passing and for large vehicles/ farm machinery and make it more dangerous for pedestrians walking along the lane.</p> <p>The site provides good opportunities for public engagement for volunteering and for outdoor learning/ education activities. The wood allotment scheme provides the opportunity for local people to get wood fuel by helping with</p>

thinning work.
<b>Factors Causing Change</b>
<p>Increasing numbers of visitors and use of the site is putting greater pressure on site infrastructure, in particular the car park and footpaths. Widening of paths has occurred in places where they are very muddy as people walk to the sides to avoid the muddy/ wet areas.</p> <p>Creation of unofficial "desire line" paths through some of the quieter areas of the woodland has caused damage to ground flora.</p>
<b>Long term Objective (50 years+)</b>
<p>To provide public access to the woodland for visitors to enjoy quiet informal recreation. The site will be welcoming with Woodland Trust signage and information at entrances and footpaths regularly maintained to make the easy to use. It will be made as safe as practicable for visitors through regular safety inspections of site hazards, access infrastructure and trees in risk zones. Any threats to the wood arising from public use/ misuse will be monitored and appropriate measures taken if necessary.</p> <p>Community engagement will be encouraged with opportunities for people to volunteer and for outdoor learning/ education.</p>
<b>Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)</b>
<p>Maintenance of paths annually by cutting back vegetation during the spring/ summer months to make the paths easy for visitors to follow and use.</p> <p>Access infrastructure (steps, benches, signs, etc) will be inspected annually and maintenance carried if necessary</p> <p>Regular safety inspections of trees in high risk zones and site hazards will be carried out as per the Trust's safety inspection regime to ensure safety of visitors and neighbours, and undertaking any remedial safety work identified.</p> <p>Monitor public use and access provision in the wood to assess the condition of the access infrastructural and if there are any threats from human activities to the wood, and taking appropriate action to address them if necessary.</p> <p>Upgrade/ extend the car park and install new welcome signage/ information to enhance the visitor welcome &amp; experience (subject to funding).</p> <p>Encourage outdoor education activities by third party groups/ organisations (e.g. forest schools, scouts, schools, etc ) to use the site.</p> <p>Provide volunteering opportunities through a WT Woodland Working Group to carry out woodland management tasks at the site.</p> <p>Continue to work with the Friends of Spud Wood to run the wood allotment scheme.</p>

## 4.2 f2 Secondary Woodland

<b>Description</b>
<p>Spud Wood is a secondary woodland with a mix of native broadleaves (approx. 26,000 trees) that were planted in 1998/99 comprising oak, ash, silver birch, rowan, wild cherry along with mixed shrubs of hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn and holly. The site also contains existing mature trees in the boundary hedgerows and along Helsdale Brook</p>

(predominantly oak, sycamore, ash, alder and willow. Trees cover approximately 70% (12 ha) of the site and the remaining 30% is managed as semi-natural open ground habitat consisting of meadows, glades and grassy path rides. The meadows were sown with a grass/ wildflower seed mix.

### **Significance**

Cheshire is one of the least wooded counties in England with less than 5% woodland cover and the creation of Spud Wood provides a significant area of new native woodland in North Cheshire. The site was previously arable farmland with relatively little biodiversity value and this new woodland enhances the wider landscape ecological network for wildlife. It also acts as a buffer to the adjoining woodlands next to the site (Helsdale and Lower Helsdale Woods). The non-wooded habitats also further enhances the site's value for nature and people.

### **Opportunities & Constraints**

#### **Opportunities:**

To enhance the biodiversity value of the woodland through the natural colonisation of flora and fauna coming in from the adjoining mature woodlands.

Woodland management operations including thinning and coppicing provide the opportunity to enhance the woodland structure and biodiversity value.

#### **Constraints:**

It is a well used site for public access with many unofficial desire line paths created which can be a constraint when undertaking woodland operations due to issues of public safety.

### **Factors Causing Change**

Ash dieback will result in the loss of tree cover although the full impacts are not yet known.

Rhododendron is widespread in the adjacent Helsdale and Lower Helsdale Woods and could spread into Spud Wood.

### **Long term Objective (50 years+)**

To maintain the secondary woodland as high forest canopy with a diverse structure and mix of native tree and shrub species and woodland ground flora. Natural regeneration will be promoted for future canopy trees and dead wood will be retained where safe to do so. Monitoring of potential threats to the woodland from tree disease, pests, invasive species and human activity will be undertaken and appropriate action taken if necessary.

### **Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)**

Thinning and coppicing work to be carried out to diversify the woodland structure, promote natural regeneration and improve its conservation and biodiversity value.

Maintain the hedges along the roadsides through annual cutting for highway visibility,

Monitor the health of the woodland to identify any threats from tree disease, pests, invasive species, in particular rhododendron, from the adjacent woodlands, and take appropriate action if necessary.

### 4.3 F3 Open Ground Habitat

<b>Description</b>
Semi-natural open ground habitat makes up approximately 30% of the site, with approximately 5ha of meadows, glades and grass path rides mostly on the southern side of the canal, with a small area next to the car park on the north side of the canal. These open ground areas were seeded with a low vigour fescue grass / wildflower seed mix and are dominated by grasses, thistles, nettles, dock and willow herb, but also contain grassland wildflower species and there is a growing population of marsh orchids in the wetter meadow areas near to the canal. As well as the meadow areas there is a small pond (approximately 20 m by 10 m) in the south eastern corner of the site which was created in 2000 and is now well established with marginal plants around the edges.
<b>Significance</b>
The site was previously arable farmland with relatively little biodiversity value and the meadow areas enhance the biodiversity value of the site for nature and provide a greater benefit for a variety of birds, butterflies and small mammals. They also enhance the site's amenity value and enjoyment for visitors.
<b>Opportunities &amp; Constraints</b>
Opportunities: To further enhance the biodiversity value of the meadow habitat through annual cutting and removal of the arisings along with wildflower seeding/ plug planting. Constraints: Heavy usage of the site by dog walkers compromises the open ground areas being used by ground nesting birds and dog poo/ bags left in the grass means it is not suitable for cutting and taking as a hay crop. Grass cuttings will need to be removed and left elsewhere on site to decompose naturally.
<b>Factors Causing Change</b>
Scrub growth and encroachment on the open ground habitat will lead to loss of the meadow areas and floristic biodiversity value over time. Invasive grassland species (thistle, dock, ragwort) will become dominant if the meadows are not managed regularly.
<b>Long term Objective (50 years+)</b>
To maintain the meadow areas/ open ground habitat to become more floristically species rich grassland habitat over time and enhance the biodiversity value of the site and encourage more insects, butterflies/ moths and wildlife. The pond will continue to be maintained as a conservation feature.
<b>Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)</b>
Management of the open ground meadow areas by cutting them at the end of summer/ early autumn each year, and if possible remove the cuttings to reduce the fertility levels to enhance the floristic value of the meadows. FOSW volunteers to carry out flower survey of meadows during the plan period to assess impact of meadow cutting.

Minimal management intervention of the pond during this plan period.

## 5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2020	PE - Community Group Support	Support for WT volunteer & community groups activities at the site – support could include tools, training, materials for work parties, expenses.	December
2022	WC - Tree / Seed Supply	The supply of trees/seeds for woodland creation sites	April

## APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	0.88	Mixed native broadleaves	1997	Coppice	Legal issues, People issues (+tve & -tve)	Community Forest
<p>This sub-compartment is located between Stage Lane and the Bridgewater Canal and is the main public access point for the site with a small car park on Stage Lane. There is a management access gate on Stage Lane (also used by fishermen to gain access to the canal bank) and another pedestrian access point from Stage Lane in the NW corner of the site and access from the canal towpath. It is a flat compartment with an approximate elevation of 22m. The soils have a high sand content and are freely draining, with a history of cultivation prior to the Trusts ownership. Approximately 0.3 ha of the compartment was planted with Oak, Ash &amp; Birch along with Hazel, Holly, Dogwood and Hawthorn. The remaining 0.58 ha was left as open ground and seeded with a low vigour fescue grass mix.</p>						
1b	11.44	Oak (pedunculate)	1997	High forest	People issues (+tve & -tve), Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Community Forest
<p>This sub-compartment forms the main body of Spud Wood. It is bounded by the Bridgewater canal on the north, Helsdale Brook &amp; sub-compartment 1c to the east, agricultural land &amp; Helsdale Wood to the south and domestic gardens to the west. The aspect of the site is mostly flat with a slight gradient between the elevations of 30m &amp; 22m above sea level. The soils generally have a high sand content with occasional areas of fine silt with poor drainage these have a greater incidence to the east of the site, the soils have a history of intensive cultivation prior to Trust ownership.</p> <p>5.88 ha was planted with native tree broadleaf species including Oak (45%), Ash (25%), Birch (12%) with a shrub layer of Hawthorn (5%), Rowan (5%), Hazel (4%), Holly (2%) and Blackthorn &amp; Dog wood (2%). The remaining 5.56 ha was left as open space and seeded with a low vigour fescue grass mix. There is public &amp; management access from sub-compartment 1a via the canal bridge, from Burford Lane crossing over Helsdale Brook and from Oughtrington Lane to the west. A small wetland scrape/ shallow pond was created in the south eastern corner of the compartment.</p> <p>Small scale thinning operations and coppicing of hazel have been carried out in the sub-cpt since 2015 by the Friends of Spud Wood volunteers to improve its conservation and biodiversity value.</p>						
1c	4.95	Oak (pedunculate)	1997	High forest	People issues (+tve & -tve), Sensitive habitats/species	Community Forest

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
					on or adjacent to site	
<p>This sub-compartment is the eastern block of Spud Wood. It is bounded to the north &amp; east by Burford Lane, to the south by agricultural land and to the west by Helsdale Brook and sub-compartment 1b. It has an elevation between 20m &amp; 30m above sea level with a slight gradient towards Helsdale Brook and the North West. The soils have a high sand content and like the rest of the site are freely draining with occasional areas of more silted ground where drainage is restricted. The site has a history of intensive cultivation prior to the Trusts ownership. The sub-compartment comprises 3.2 ha of native tree species planting (Oak, Ash &amp; Birch) with shrubs (Rowan, Hazel, Holly, Hawthorn and Blackthorn) with a scattering of existing mature trees along the course of Helsdale Brook and the northern boundary. 1.75 ha of the sub-compartment was left as open space and seeded with a low vigour fescue grass mix. Public access and management access is available off Burford Lane and across Helsdale brook via a management track (culvert) and wooden footbridge. A line of mature trees running alongside Burford Lane and the canal underpass are in the ownership of the Trust.</p> <p>A thinning operation was carried out in the sub-cpt by a contractor in early 2022 to improve its conservation and biodiversity value. Hazel coppicing has also been carried out by the Friends of Spud Wood volunteers.</p>						



### **Ancient Woodland**

Ancient woods are defined as those where there has been continuous woodland cover since at least 1600 AD. In Scotland ancient woods are defined strictly as sites shown as semi-natural woodland on the 'Roy' maps (a military survey carried out in 1750 AD, which is the best source of historical map evidence) and as woodland all subsequent maps. However, they have been combined with long-established woods of semi-natural origin (originating from between 1750 and 1860) into a single category of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland to take account of uncertainties in their identification. Ancient woods include Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland and plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (see below). May support many species that are only found in ancient woodland.

### **Ancient Semi - Natural Woodland**

Stands in ancient woods defined as those consisting predominantly of native trees and shrubs that have not obviously been planted, which have arisen from natural regeneration or coppice regrowth.

### **Ancient Woodland Site**

Stands in ancient woods that have been converted to plantations, of coniferous, broadleaved or mixed species, usually for timber production, including plantations of native species planted so closely together that any semi-natural elements of the understorey have been suppressed.

### **Beating Up**

Replacing any newly planted trees that have died in the first few years after planting.

### **Broadleaf**

A tree having broad leaves (such as oak) rather than needles found on conifers (such as Scots pine).

### **Canopy**

The uppermost layer of vegetation in a woodland, or the upper foliage and branches of an individual tree.

### **Clearfell**

Felling of all trees within a defined area.

### **Compartment**

Permanent management division of a woodland, usually defined on site by permanent features such as roads. See Sub-compartments.

### **Conifer**

A tree having needles, rather than broadleaves, and typically bearing cones.

### **Continuous Cover forestry**

A term used for managing woods to ensure that there are groups or individual trees of different ages scattered over the whole wood and that some mature tree cover is always maintained. Management is by repeated thinning and no large areas are ever completely felled all at once.

**Coppice**

Trees which are cut back to ground levels at regular intervals (3-25 years).

**Exotic (non-native) Species**

Species originating from other countries (or other parts of the UK) that have been introduced by humans, deliberately or accidentally.

**Field Layer**

Layer of small, non-woody herbaceous plants such as bluebells.

**Group Fell**

The felling of a small group of trees, often to promote natural regeneration or allow planting.

**Long Term Retention**

Discrete groups of trees (or in some cases single trees) that are retained significantly past their economic felling age. Operations may still be carried out within them and thinning is often necessary to maintain stability.

**Minimum Intervention**

Areas where no operations (such as thinning) will take place other than to protect public safety or possibly to control invasive exotic species.

**Mixed Woodland**

Woodland made up of broadleaved and coniferous trees.

**National vegetation classification (NVC)**

A classification scheme that allows an area of vegetation to be assigned to the standardised type that best matches the combination of plant species that it contains. All woodlands in the UK can be described as being one of 18 main woodland types (W1 - W18), which principally reflect soil and climatic conditions. For example, Upland Oakwoods are type W11, and normally occur on well drained infertile soils in the cooler and wetter north and west of Britain. Each main type can be subdivided into numerous subtypes. Most real woods contain more than one type or sub-type and inevitably some woods are intermediate in character and can't be properly described by any sub type.

**Native Species**

Species that arrived in Britain without human assistance.

**Natural Regeneration**

Naturally grown trees from seeds falling from mature trees. Also regeneration from coppicing and suckering.

**Origin & Provenance**

The provenance of a tree or seed is the place where seed was collected to grow the tree or plant. The origin is the geographical location within the natural range of a species from where seeds/tree originally derives. Thus an acorn collected from a Turkey oak in Edinburgh would have an Edinburgh provenance and a southern European origin.

**Re-Stocking**

Re-planting an area of woodland, after it has been felled.

**Shrub Layer**

Formed by woody plants 1-10m tall.

**Silviculture**

The growing and care of trees in woodlands.

**Stand**

Trees of one type or species, grouped together within a woodland.

**Sub-Compartment**

Temporary management division of a compartment, which may change between management plan periods.

**Thinning**

The felling of a proportion of individual trees within a given area. The remaining trees grow to fill in the space created.

**Tubex or Grow or Tuley Tubes**

Tubes placed over newly planted trees or natural regeneration that promote growth and provide protection from animals such as rabbits and deer.

**Weeding**

The control of vegetation immediately around newly planted trees or natural regeneration to promote tree growth until they become established.

**Windblow/Windthrow**

Trees or groups of trees blown over (usually uprooted) by strong winds and gales.

**Registered Office:**

**The Woodland Trust, Kempton Way, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG31 6LL.**

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